

Remarks

In the Office Action mailed November 2, 2005, the Examiner rejected claims 1-21 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by the document entitled *WAP Forum WAP MMS Architecture Overview* ("WAP MMS OVERVIEW").

Of the pending claims, claims 1, 10, and 21 are independent and the remainder are dependent. Each pending claim is directed to a way of using an alternate communication route to receive a multimedia message. In the invention, when a wireless communication device ("WCD") receives a message-notification via its air interface (*i.e.*, cellular interface), a computer in local communication with the WCD will responsively retrieve the indicated message over an alternate network connection such as a wireline connection. An exemplary embodiment of this setup is shown in Figure 4 of the present application as reproduced below.

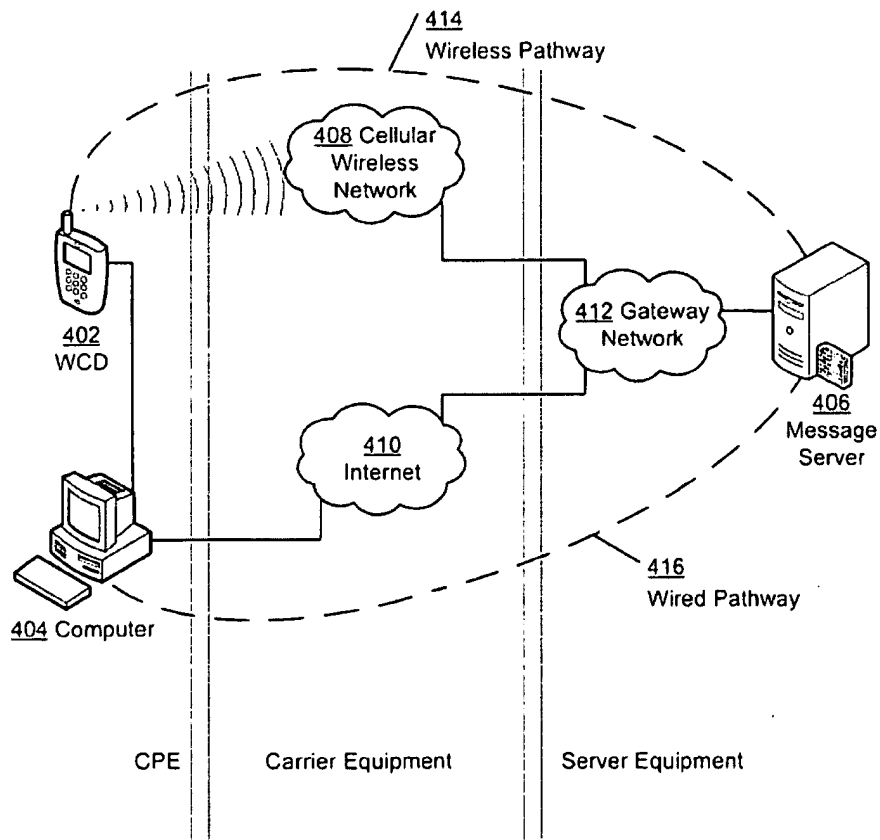


FIG. 4

WAP MMS OVERVIEW provides a general overview of the use of WAP in MMS applications. However, the cited reference does not teach the claimed methods or systems. Applicant submits that this rejection is therefore improper.

Each independent claim of the present application requires, in one form or another, a configuration for a WCD to receive a message-notification and then pass an indication of the message-notification to a computer locally-connected to the WCD. Further, each independent claim requires, in one form or another, a configuration for the computer to send a message-retrieval request to a message server along a communication pathway that does not include the WCD or its wireless interface.

In the example provided by Figure 4 above, the WCD may receive a message-notification via the wireless pathway and then pass that notification directly to the locally-connected computer. The locally-connected computer, in turn, may request the message from the message server using the alternative wired pathway. Depending upon the embodiment, the message may then be accessible to a user at the computer or passed from the computer directly to the WCD.

WAP MMS OVERVIEW fails to provide the framework recited in the claims and shown in Figure 4. For instance, the reference does not teach a wireless device locally connected to a computer that is, in turn, coupled with a message server via an alternative network. Further, the reference does not teach the messaging scheme recited in the claims. Yet further, the reference does not teach that the message addressed to the WCD may be accessible to a locally connected computer without the message passing through the WCD.

7. Conclusion

In view of the above remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of all the pending claims. Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at his direct dial number (312) 913-3316.

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Respectfully submitted,

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